

REMARKS

Claims 1, 15, 18, 19, 68, 78-88, and 93 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 15, 78, and 79 are now amended. Claim 93 is now added. The new claim and claim amendments are fully supported by the application as filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 67, 69, 84, 85, 87-90 and 92 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Shimizu (JP 2000-267591). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 67, 69, 89, 90, and 92 are now cancelled. Therefore, this Section 102 rejection is now moot with respect to these claims.

Claims 84, 85, 87, and 88 are each dependent upon amended Claim 1. Amended Claim 1 includes the allowable subject matter of Claim 77. Therefore, amended Claim 1 is now in a condition for allowance. Consequently, Claims 84, 85, 87, and 88 are also in a condition for allowance at least for including the allowable subject matter of Claim 1.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this Section 102 rejection.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER – NEW CLAIM

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the allowable subject matter of Claims 68, 77-83, 86, and 91.

Applicant now includes the allowed subject matter of Claim 77 into amended Claim 1 to bring Claim 1 and those claims dependent therefrom into a condition for allowance.

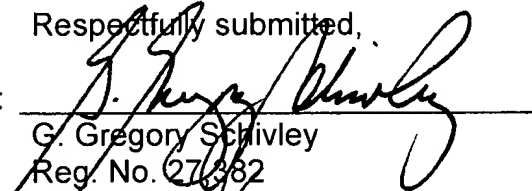
Applicant now includes the allowed subject matter of Claim 91 into amended Claim 15 to bring Claim 15 and those claims dependent therefrom into a condition for allowance.

Applicant now adds the allowable subject matter of Claim 86 and intervening Claim 84 to the subject matter of previously pending Claim 1 and presents this subject matter as new Claim 93. New Claim 93 is in a condition for allowance at least for including the allowable subject matter of Claim 86 and intervening Claim 84. Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of new Claim 93.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Dated: Dec 19, 2006

Respectfully submitted,
By: 
G. Gregory Schivley
Reg. No. 27,382
Bryant E. Wade
Reg. No. 40,344

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600
[GGS/BEW/BGS/cn]